IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add Claims 50 to 53 as follows. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Original) A network management device for use while connected to an information processing device and a network device via a network, for managing the network device in response to a request from the information processing device, said network management device comprising:

process execution request receiving means for receiving, from the information processing device, a request for execution of a process upon the network device, where execution of the process needs particular permission;

determining means for determining whether a command to invalidate a password of the network device has been received together with the process execution request; and

invalidation request transmission means which, when said determining means has determined that the command has been received, transmits to the network device an invalidation request to invalidate the password of the network device.

2. (Original) A network management device according to Claim 1, further comprising:

invalidation determining means for determining whether the password of the network device has been invalidated in response to the invalidation request; and

execution means which, when said invalidation determining means has determined that the invalidation has been performed, executes the process which needs particular permission.

3. (Original) A network management device according to Claim 2, wherein, in a case where said invalidation determining means has determined that the invalidation has not been performed, said execution means executes an error handling procedure.

4. (Original) A network management device according to Claim 3, wherein, in a case where said invalidation determining means has determined that the invalidation has not been performed, said execution means informs the information processing device that the invalidation has not been performed.

5. (Original) A network management device according to Claim 2, wherein:

said execution means makes an SNMP agent running on the network device perform the process which needs the particular permission, using an SNMP protocol, and

said invalidation request transmission means transmits, using the SNMP protocol, the invalidation request to the SNMP agent operating on the network device.

6. (Original) A network management device according to Claim 1, further comprising input request transmitting means which, when said determining means has determined that the command has not been received, transmits to the information processing device a request to input a password.

7. (Original) A network management device according to Claim 6, further comprising determining means for determining whether a password transmitted in response to the input request and a password of the network device are consistent with each other.

8. (Original) A network management device according to Claim 1, wherein said process execution request receiving means receives the process execution request from a WWW browser operating on the information processing device, via a WWW server operating in said network management device.

9. (Original) A network management device according to Claim 1, wherein the network device is a printer or a network board.

10. (Original) A network management device according to Claim 1, further comprising information transmitting means for transmitting information to the information processing device to display a screen on a display of the information processing device so that a command to perform a process which needs the particular permission can be input via the screen.

11. (Withdrawn) A network management device connected to an information processing device and a network device via a network, for managing the network device in response to a request from the information processing device, said network management device comprising:

process execution request receiving means for receiving, from the information processing device, a request for execution of a process upon the network device, where execution of the process needs particular permission;

determining means for determining whether a command to ignore a password of the network device has been received together with the process execution request; and

execution means which, when said determining means has determined that said command has been received, ignores the password of the network device and executes the process which needs particular permission.

12. (Withdrawn) A network management device according to Claim 11, wherein said execution means makes an SNMP agent running on the network device perform the process which needs the particular permission, using an SNMP protocol.

13. (Withdrawn) A network management device according to Claim 11, further comprising input request transmitting means which, when said determining means has determined that the command has not been received, transmits to the information processing device a request to input a password.

14. (Withdrawn) A network management device according to Claim 13, further comprising determining means for determining whether a password transmitted in response to the input request and a password of the network device are consistent with each other.

15. (Withdrawn) A network management device according to Claim 11, wherein said process execution request receiving means receives the process execution request from a WWW browser operating on the information processing device, via a WWW server operating in the network management device.

16. (Withdrawn) A network management device according to Claim 11, wherein the network device is a printer or a network board.

17. (Withdrawn) A network management device according to Claim 11, further comprising information transmitting means for transmitting information to the information processing device to display a screen on a display of the information processing device so that a command to perform a process which needs the particular permission can be input via the screen.

18. (Original) A storage medium including a program stored thereon, said program being executed by a computer to communicate with an information processing device and a network device via a network and manage the network device in response to a request from the information processing device, said program comprising:

a process execution request receiving step, of receiving, from the information processing device, a request for execution of a process upon the network device, where execution of the process needs particular permission;

a determining step, of determining whether a command to invalidate a password of the network device has been received together with the process execution request; and

an invalidation request transmission step, in which, when it has been determined in said determining step that the command has been received, an invalidation request to invalidate the password of the network device is transmitted to the network device.

19. (Original) A storage medium according to Claim 18, said program executed by the computer further comprising:

an invalidation determining step, of determining whether the password of the network device has been invalidated in response to the invalidation request; and

an execution step, in which, when it has been determined in said invalidation determining step that the invalidation has been performed, the process which needs particular permission is executed.

20. (Original) A storage medium according to Claim 19, wherein, in a case where it has been determined in said invalidation determining step that the invalidation has not been performed, error handling is executed in said execution step.

21. (Original) A storage medium according to Claim 20, wherein, in a case where it has been determined in said invalidation determining step that the invalidation has

not been performed, said execution step includes advising the information processing device that the invalidation has not been performed.

22. (Original) A storage medium according to Claim 19, wherein said execution step includes making an SNMP agent running on the network device perform the process which needs the particular permission, using an SNMP protocol, and in said invalidation request transmission step, the invalidation request is transmitted, using the SNMP protocol, to the SNMP agent operating on the network device.

23. (Original) A storage medium according to Claim 18, said program executed by the computer further comprising an input request transmitting step, in which, when it has been determined in said determining step that the command has not been received, a request for inputting of a password is transmitted to the information processing device.

24. (Original) A storage medium according to Claim 23, said program executed by the computer further comprising a determining step, of determining whether a password transmitted in response to the input request and a password of the network device are consistent with each other.

25. (Original) A storage medium according to Claim 18, wherein, in said process execution request receiving step, the process execution request is received from a

WWW browser operating on the information processing device, via a WWW server operating in the network management device.

26. (Original) A storage medium according to Claim 18, said program executed by the computer further comprising an information transmitting step, of transmitting information to the information processing device to display a screen on a display of the information processing device so that a command to perform a process which needs the particular permission can be input via the screen.

27. (Withdrawn) A storage medium including a program stored thereon, said program being executed by a computer to communicate with an information processing device and a network device via a network and manage the network device in response to a request from the information processing device, said program comprising:

a process execution request receiving step, of receiving, from the information processing device, a request for execution of a process upon the network device, where execution of the process needs particular permission;

a determining step, of determining whether a command to ignore a password of the network device has been received together with the process execution request; and

an execution step, in which, when it has been determined in said determining step that the command has been received, the password of the network device is ignored and the process which needs particular permission is executed.

28. (Withdrawn) A storage medium according to Claim 27, wherein said execution step includes making an SNMP agent running on the network device perform the process which needs the particular permission, using an SNMP protocol.

29. (Withdrawn) A storage medium according to Claim 27, said program executed by the computer further comprising an input request transmitting step, in which, when it has been determined in said determining step that the command has not been received, a request for inputting of a password is transmitted to the information processing device.

30. (Withdrawn) A storage medium according to Claim 29, said program executed by the computer further comprising a determining step, of determining whether a password transmitted in response to the input request and a password of the network device are consistent with each other.

31. (Withdrawn) A storage medium according to Claim 27, wherein, in said process execution request receiving step, the process execution request is received from a WWW browser operating on the information processing device, via a WWW server operating in the network management device.

32. (Withdrawn) A storage medium according to Claim 27, said program executed by the computer further comprising an information transmitting step, of transmitting information to the information processing device to display a screen on a

display of the information processing device so that a command to perform a process which needs the particular permission can be input via the screen.

33. (Original) A network management program executed by a computer to communicate with an information processing device and a network device via a network and manage the network device in response to a request from the information processing device, said program comprising:

a process execution request receiving step, of receiving, from the information processing device, a request for execution of a process upon the network device, where execution of the process needs particular permission;

a determining step, of determining whether a command to invalidate a password of the network device has been received together with the process execution request; and

an invalidation request transmission step, in which, when it has been determined in said determining step that the command has been received, an invalidation request to invalidate the password of the network device is transmitted to the network device.

34. (Original) A network management program according to Claim 33, said program further comprising:

an invalidation determining step, of determining whether the password of the network device has been invalidated in response to the invalidation request; and

an execution step, in which, when it has been determined in said invalidation determining step that the invalidation has been performed, the process which needs particular permission is executed.

35. (Original) A network management program according to Claim 34, wherein, in a case where it has been determined in said invalidation determining step that the invalidation has not been performed, error handling is executed in said execution step.

36. (Original) A network management program according to Claim 35, wherein, in a case where it has been determined in said invalidation determining step that the invalidation has not been performed, said execution step includes advising the information processing device that the invalidation has not been performed.

37. (Original) A network management program according to Claim 34, wherein said execution step includes making an SNMP agent running on the network device perform the process which needs the particular permission, using an SNMP protocol, and in said invalidation request transmission step, the invalidation request is transmitted, using the SNMP protocol, to the SNMP agent operating on the network device.

38. (Original) A network management program according to Claim 33, said program further comprising an input request transmitting step, in which, when it has been

determined in said determining step that the command has not been received, a request for inputting of a password is transmitted to the information processing device.

39. (Original) A network management program according to Claim 38, said program further comprising a determining step, of determining whether a password transmitted in response to the input request and a password of the network device are consistent with each other.

40. (Original) A network management program according to Claim 33, wherein in said process execution request receiving step, the process execution request is received from a WWW browser operating on the information processing device, via a WWW server operating in the network management device.

41. (Original) A network management program according to Claim 33, said program further comprising a information transmitting step, of transmitting information to the information processing device to display a screen on a display of the information processing device so that a command to perform the process which needs the particular permission can be input via the screen.

42. (Withdrawn) A network management program executed by a computer to communicate with an information processing device and a network device via a network and manage the network device in response to a request from the information processing device, said program comprising:

a process execution request receiving step, of receiving, from the information processing device, a request for execution of a process upon the network device, where execution of the process needs particular permission;

a determining step, of determining whether a command to ignore a password of the network device has been received together with the process execution request; and

an execution step, in which, when it has been determined in said determining step that the command has been received, the password of the network device is ignored and the process which needs particular permission is executed.

43. (Withdrawn) A network management program according to Claim 42, wherein said execution step includes making an SNMP agent running on the network device perform the process which needs the particular permission, using an SNMP protocol.

44. (Withdrawn) A network management program according to Claim 42, said program further comprising an input request transmitting step, in which, when it has been determined in said determining step that the command has not been received, a request for inputting of a password is transmitted to the information processing device.

45. (Withdrawn) A network management program according to Claim 44, said program further comprising a determining step, of determining whether a password

transmitted in response to the input request and a password of the network device are consistent with each other.

46. (Withdrawn) A network management program according to Claim 42, wherein in said process execution request receiving step, the process execution request is received from a WWW browser operating on the information processing device, via a WWW server operating in the network management device.

47. (Withdrawn) A network management program according to Claim 42, said program further comprising a information transmitting step, of transmitting information to the information processing device to display a screen on a display of the information processing device so that a command to perform the process which needs the particular permission can be input via the screen.

48. (Original) A network management method for communicating with an information processing device and a network device via a network and managing the network device in response to a request from the information processing device, said method comprising:

a process execution request receiving step, of receiving, from the information processing device, a request for execution of a process upon the network device, where execution of the process needs particular permission;

a determining step, of determining whether a command to invalidate a password of the network device has been received together with the process execution request; and

an invalidation request transmission step, in which, when it has been determined in said determining step that the command has been received, an invalidation request to invalidate the password of the network device is transmitted to the network device.

49. (Withdrawn) A network management method for communicating with an information processing device and a network device via a network and managing the network device in response to a request from the information processing device, said method comprising:

a process execution request receiving step, of receiving, from the information processing device, a request for execution of a process upon the network device, where execution of the process needs particular permission;

a determining step, of determining whether a command to ignore a password of the network device has been received together with the process execution request; and

an execution step, in which, when it has been determined in said determining step that the command has been received, the password of the network device is ignored and the process which needs particular permission is executed.

50. (New) A network management device for use while connected to an information processing device and a network device via a network, for managing the network device in response to a request from the information processing device, said network management device comprising:

process execution request receiving means for receiving, from the information processing device, a request for execution of a process upon the network device, where execution of the process needs particular permission;

determining means for determining whether a command for password management of the network device has been received together with the process execution request; and

password management means which, when said determining means has determined that said command has been received, manages the password of the network device.

51. (New) A storage medium including a program stored thereon, said program being executed by a computer to communicate with an information processing device and a network device via a network and manage the network device in response to a request from the information processing device, said program comprising:

a process execution request receiving step, of receiving, from the information processing device, a request for execution of a process upon the network device, where execution of the process needs particular permission;

a determining step, of determining whether a command for password management of the network device has been received together with the process execution request; and

a password management step, in which, when it has been determined in said determining step that the command has been received, the password of the network device is managed.

52. (New) A network management program executed by a computer to communicate with an information processing device and a network device via a network and manage the network device in response to a request from the information processing device, said program comprising:

a process execution request receiving step, of receiving, from the information processing device, a request for execution of a process upon the network device, where execution of the process needs particular permission;

a determining step, of determining whether a command for password management of the network device has been received together with the process execution request; and

a password management step, in which, when it has been determined in said determining step that the command has been received, the password of the network device is managed.

53. (New) A network management method for communicating with an information processing device and a network device via a network and managing the

network device in response to a request from the information processing device, said method comprising:

a process execution request receiving step, of receiving, from the information processing device, a request for execution of a process upon the network device, where execution of the process needs particular permission;

a determining step, of determining whether a command for password management of the network device has been received together with the process execution request; and

a password management step, in which, when it has been determined in said determining step that the command has been received, the password of the network device is managed.